HAMILTON, 25th FEBRUARY, 1861.

SIR,

A Committee comprising members of the City Council, members of the Board of Trade, and a number of other Gentlemen, inhabitants of this City, have again had under their consideration, the serious burdens incurred by municipalities, in promoting the construction of Railways. Such burdens have necessarily increased the local taxes, and in consequence have a most discouraging effect upon the prosperity of many Municipalities.

The inhabitants of this and other Municipalities, petitioned Parliament for some act of relief last year, and the House of Assembly, by consent of the Government, appointed a Committee to inquire into the matter.

That Committee will resume its sittings at the approaching meeting of the House.

It is, however, very necessary, that the attention of the Legislature should be again drawn to the subject, and the undersigned is therefore instructed to respectfully request that you will submit for adoption the accompanying form of petition, by your Council or by the Inhabitants, and forward it to your representative, with the request that he will give it his best attention and support.

It would be of great advantage, were you to appoint a deputation of one or more gentlemen to proceed to Quebec (when the House meets) that united action may be taken to secure the object in view.

Be pleased to acknowledge this at your earliest convenience, and state whether your Municipality will petition, and if likely to authorize a deputation to visit Quebec for the purpose mentioned.

I have the honor to be, Sir,

Your most ob't serv't,

S. S. Wilkison

To

The Warden
County of Elgin
St. Thomas

1861

COUNTY OF ELGIN
No.

To the Honourable the Legislative Assembly of Canada, in Provincial Parliament Assembled.

The Petition of the Municipality of

HUMBLY SHEWETH:

That your Petitioners earnestly desire to bring under the consideration of your Honourable House, the injurious effects which *the large indebtedness* incurred by so many Municipalities for Railway Enterprise, has upon the best interests of the Country.

That as such indebtedness has necessarily caused increased taxation, and tends to discourage the Enterprise of Individuals and Communities, it must consequently, seriously affect the revenue of the Province. Your Petitioners would therefore impress on your Honourable House, the expediency and equity of enacting such a measure of relief in the emergency, as would have the effect of infusing a degree of life and energy, calculated to be felt throughout the country, and which would amply re-imburse the Provincial Treasury in the improvement of the revenue.

That the Railway which your Petitioners have assisted, has contributed to the general advantage of the country.

Your Petitioners, therefore, pray your Honourable House, to pass an effectual measure of relief, relating to the Municipalities so indebted.

And your Petitioners will ever pray.